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HB 23 RELATING TO RECYCLING

Statement for
House Committee on
Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - February 2, 1989

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HB 23 proposes the creation of an industry recycling commission to study and evaluate alternative recycling methods and policies in order to alleviate problems associated with Hawaii's limited landfill capacity. Our comments on this bill do not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We strongly support the intent of HB 23 to promote recycling and waste management control, and to create a commission to evaluate and recommend alternative waste management practices. We offer the following amendments to clarify the rationale for and improve the implementation of the proposed bill.

On Page 1, line 12, we suggest changing the wording, "recycling may be ..." to "recycling presently is the most economically feasible...." This more accurately reflects the present situation.

Although we recognize the intent to provide industry the opportunity to regulate themselves, we feel that as presently proposed, the commission is too heavily weighted towards retailers, manufacturers, distributors, and shippers whose profit incentives may conflict with the implementation of recycling provisions. We recommend that the commission include a more diverse variety of perspectives in order to assure that the recommendations are as balanced and unbiased as possible. Membership might include people from organizations such as the League of Women Voters, the Outdoor Circle, Consumer Advocate groups, the Hawaii Visitor's

Bureau, the forestry industry, and resource management professionals, including engineers with technical proficiency in alternative waste stream management processes.

We also are unsure of the wisdom of placing the commission administratively within the Department of Business and Economic Development. It may be more appropriate and productive to place the commission in either the Office of State Planning or the Department of Health.

In recognition of the many comparable programs implemented elsewhere, the outline of commission responsibilities given in Section 5 should be amended to include:

- (n) Conduct an evaluation of recycling legislation and programs implemented in other states to assess their applicability to Hawaii.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this bill, and we reiterate our strong support for its intent.
